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Subject: Notes from Media Briefing February 8, 2022

Unclassified

Media questions February 8 2022

Cinq47: Injuries to officers .. can you give us an idea how many officers were injured and types of injuries.

No injuries to date.

CBC Ottawa Kate Porter: 100 trucks with children and CAS involved .. are you requiring that CAS removes children from the trucks?

We identified that concern that children and families had attended to take part in the occupation. It's something that concerns us, for the wellbeing of everyone in the area, including noise, cold, toxic fumes from diesel, food, the ability to shower. We are raising it as something we need to address.

City News Alex Gouge: How difficult does it make it that people are bringing in water in these fuel tanks?

It's provides a layer of logistical complexity and challenges for us to stop and conduct searches and seize those gas tanks and the fuel in them and charge people. It demonstrates a level of sophistication to subvert police efforts and that concerns us.

Ted Raymond CTV Ottawa: Several vehicles have been immobilized – reports of tires and wheels taken off – how does that affect your ability to start to remove these vehicles? What are your next steps?

Immobilization in occupation area is extremely concerning. Some vehicles have had their brakes bled to make them immobile. One issue is the sheer size of both the area occupied and the size of the vehicles. We are ultimately planning around this, we know that after this is over we know that we will have to do some cleanup.

Global News Craig Lord: We've heard about the need for additional officers, does the OPS have all the legal authority to end this protest or are there additional powers that can be sought?

As we indicated early on, everything is on the table in terms of options. There are several legal avenues that we will continue to explore. Some of the extra supports we are seeking include people like legal experts, experts in insurance, experts in licencing and registration. We will use everything within our means to hold people engaged in this accountable.

Ottawa Citizen Matt Lapierre: Updated timeline with respect to the protest?

We want this occupation to end as soon as possible, we want them to know that their message has been heard and to go home so that we can get our city back. We continue to work every day to end this occupation.

Ottawa Sun John Willing: How many in house heavy tow trucks does OPS/City have .. have those resources been put in play or ruled out because of safety concerns in the red zones?

As with any policing operation we don't give out specific information. WE continue to work with the city and local tow truck providers. And we're looking at how other municipalities can help to support us.

Radio Canada : You mention about people walking around with jerry cans, some with water, some not, we saw a big operation at Coventry .. what's the strategy for fuel? Are we going to stop everyone we see, or are we going to do bigger operations?

We don't have a single strategy around that but rather multiprong strategies involved. We told people yesterday that if you were seen carrying a jerry can around the downtown you would be subject to being stopped. While this was happening, we were out at Coventry to disrupt and deter these people from remaining in our city.

CTV National McKenzie Gray: Chief talked yesterday about strict enforcement in downtown core, literally we saw people with wheelbarrows full of jerry cans, and when we asked police why they didn't stop them, they said well they may be water.

Yesterday you saw the request for augmented resources – one of the things we identified was that it would be important to cut off the flow of fuel into that area. As indicated by photos you see, it's difficult to control all areas – we are hoping with more numbers we can harden those perimeters. We had one incident where one of our members was swarmed and we had to remove our member (for his safety). It's important that we have the number of officers engaged to safely enact those interdictions.

CBC Kingston: Why haven't the police considered removing the protestors – bring in the military to help remove?

We are looking at all options to safely, peacefully remove these protestors, whether willingly or through interventions.

Globe and Mail Kristie Kirkup: Downtown Ottawa residents are very concerned about the alleged arsonists – police have posted images – what do police believe happened there. Is there any reason to believe there is a connection with the trucker protest and have the suspects been identified?

There was images captured with the initial complaint and we have investigators assigned, and it has been shared with police partners across the country. We absolutely understand the community's concern about something as dangerous as that, I don't have an update, but I do know that incidents like that are creating great amounts of concern within the community. We don't have any direct link between the occupation and that act, but the community is at a heightened risk, and we take those incidents very very seriously. A community meeting is occurring between the OPS and members of that building today.

Tonda McCharles Toronto Star: How many of those extra 1800 officers have you received yet? Federal govt is not prepared to talk with organizers, what is the plan out of this?

We put an ask for 1800 officers, sworn and civilian, we continue to work with our partners and planning teams exactly where they will be coming from. We've had absolute cooperation with many of our partners, from RCMP to right across Ontario, and it continues and we thank them for their help.

How we move forward: How can we have fruitful dialogue with leaders within the occupation, with our strong police liaison assets who have daily ongoing conversations with the organizers. It's important that we continue to have those dialogues.

You've seen an increased police presence, over 1,300 traffic charges, we are looking at how we lay criminal and vehicle charges now and into the future. Looking at various enforcement angles to move us ahead.

Laura Osmant Canadian Press: 1800 officers – you mention that you need more officers to harden that perimeter. If you got an injunction would you be able to enforce that with the officers you have?

1800 officers and civilians are for a multitude of various activities including hardening the area around the occupation. It takes about 400 officers a day to actively shrink that footprint. We know that we will need investigative officers to pursue any criminal activity that occurred.

City News: Staging areas being used by protestors. I understand police have been dismantling some areas .. does ops know how many staging areas there currently are and what is being done to discourage further staging areas?

We strongly relied on gathering intelligence and information about the progress of the convoy, and the subsequent demonstration. We continue to work with our partners to bring intelligence information in to bring things exactly like the staging areas. As we learn about them we will actively shut them down.

CTV Ottawa Ted Raymond: What is the mood/morale among rank and file at OPS? Would 1800 be a boost?

Our members are tired, they are very tired, they go out every single day to try to take back a portion of our city that's been lost to this occupation. They are working in cold weather and extremely difficult conditions and they find it challenging.

Morale is challenged, this is an extremely difficult job. I'm extremely proud of the work they're doing. They continue to show up every day and do amazing work.

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